

## 1624 Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2013 – Hand in Hand Community Development Center

### Attendees:

Lynese King, Marche Parmore, Gwen Taylor, Betty Ellis Paxton, John Britt, James Wiby, Allison Kenney, Elizabeth Rich, Carmen Miranda, Juan Miranda, Carol Hutson, Ivory Haywood, Tonya Lewis, Tess Thomas, Anne Travis-Barker, Katrishca Sales, Talya Miller, Marie Fuji, Stephanie Allison-Noone, Doreen Holze

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	DECISIONS	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES	LEADS
DLR Contact List	Stephanie Allison-Noone shared that Gia Wesley will be putting together a contact list for use by foster parents to contact DLR staff		Gia Wesley		
Travel Policy	Stephanie spoke about the travel policy for foster children and permission does have to be obtained prior to a foster child traveling. Out-of-state travel should be submitted at least three prior to the scheduled trip.	A copy of the travel policy will be emailed to Anne Travis-Barker to share with foster parents.	Stephanie Allison-Noone		
Placements	Stephanie let the foster parents know that they should receive a placement packet when foster children are placed with them.  Be sure to ask the social				

	<p>worker to provide you with the packet if you do not receive a packet.</p> <p>Foster parents are asked to sign a form they have received the packet.</p> <p>Foster parents indicated they are still not receiving placement packets with every placement, and that many times they are not receiving an ISSP or Report to Court notices.</p> <p>Talya Miller indicated that in the past she has received a placement packet from the Placement Unit, but that hasn't happened in some time.</p> <p>The packets are for both licensed caregivers and relative caregivers.</p> <p>Stephanie recommended that caregivers let social workers know they'll be expecting a placement packet when the child is brought to their home.</p> <p>Foster parents also indicated</p>				
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	<p>they would like social workers to leave their business card when placing a child, as well as their supervisor's card so that foster parents have all the necessary contact information.</p>				
Talya Miller - Updates	<p>Talya reported there have been additional trainings, as well as ongoing trainings, provided to DLR staff on working with foster parents and how to treat foster parents.</p> <p>The work group that Talya has been a part of that has been working on the respect and responsibilities piece, with regards to foster parents, will be presenting their work at the April 2013 state-wide 1624 meeting.</p> <p>DLR is working with families to identify potential respite providers early in the licensing process so that new licensed foster parents have a built in support system.</p>				

FAR – Family Assessment Response	<p>Stephanie spoke about the new FAR track for families that was approved by the legislature.</p> <p>This change should not directly impact foster families, as the goal is to keep children in their home and place supports in the home to resolves issues to help families to remain together, rather than children having to go into foster care.</p> <p>Each office will be developing a Community Involvement Team that will help with this process.</p>				
DLR Projects	<p>Talya spoke about projects she is working on and trying to complete during her term as an R2 1624 foster parent liaison.</p> <p>One is the Tool Box – it was started and then there were personnel changes. Talya hopes to have the Tool Box completed by the next 1624 meeting.</p>				

	<p>The other items are a DLR document and respect document. Talya would like to complete these tasks by December 2013.</p> <p>Talya is also interested in creating an “Unsung Hero” type of award that could be given to care givers or social workers. This is a new project that will time and effort to develop.</p> <p>Outside agency support – too many systems don’t understand what other agencies can or cannot do, such as policy not understanding what foster parents are responsible for compared to social workers, the mental health community not understanding what a social worker is responsible for compared to foster parents, etc.</p> <p>Talya also reported that there will be a mini-conference coming up. The purpose of the conference is to have providers come</p>				
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	<p>together to get to share information with each other. Then on March 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a meeting, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. office that foster parents can attend to meet providers and to share information.</p>				
Foster Parent Concerns	<p>Accountability – foster parents expressed that there have been many trainings, meetings and work groups regarding accountability.</p> <p>It appears to foster parents that they are being held accountable when it comes to foster parents, but that Children’s staff isn’t held to the same level of accountability when it comes to sharing information, dealing with issues regarding foster children and/or foster parent concerns.</p> <p>Foster parents also expressed frustration at how slow the system moves and</p>		<p>Stephanie Allison-Noone will take this information back to share at the A.A. meeting.</p>		

	<p>how long it takes to implement changes.</p> <p>Team Work – foster parents feel they are being discounted when it comes to being part of the team and their information not being taken in to account regarding foster children. They are frequently left out of FTDM meetings, court hearings and are being told “the professionals” will be making the decisions regarding the children in their care.</p> <p>Foster parents have insight to behaviors of the children in their care but are not always being listened to by social workers, and at times social workers leave the impression they do not want input from foster parents.</p> <p>Foster parents want to be included on the team working with children and would appreciate having their experience with the foster care children/system acknowledged by social workers.</p>				
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	<p>There was discussion about the training with Denise Goodman and the foster parent panel.</p> <p>Foster parents thought this type of training would be helpful to have at Academy and that it would be helpful to have several sessions in individual offices to help change the culture around how social workers view and interact with foster parents. Hopefully, this would help social workers understand everything foster parents have to deal with as foster parents.</p> <p>Foster parents also indicated they thought it would be a good idea for social workers to have to shadow a foster parent for a week to see what foster parents have to deal with on a regular basis.</p> <p>Foster parents would also appreciate it if social workers would keep their voice mail updated indicating when they will be in the office so that foster</p>			
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	<p>parents can make contact with the assigned social worker, as well as social workers returning phone calls.</p>			
State-wide Issues	<p>The two issues foster parents should be moved up the state-wide meeting are:</p> <p>Respect for foster parents – that foster parents are viewed as part of team in caring for foster children.</p> <p>DLR Compliance – how long is the process and how do you escalate an issue? If the foster parent has completed their compliance plan when does the episode end?</p>			